

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph 0029 with the following:

[0029] In some instances, the number of links 28 selected to participate in transporting the data stream between the IMUX may be greater than needed. Thus, there may be at least one link available to be trained at the optimal data rate and set to idle status as described in detail in available U.S. application Ser. No. [[____]] 09/751,808 titled "PORT SWAPPING FOR INVERSE MULTIPLEXED DIGITAL SUBSCRIBER LINES" filed on [[____]] December 29, 2000 and incorporated herein by reference.